



LESSON 3 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE: If we go the wrong way, we will end up in some sticky situations!

OBJECTIVE: Kids will learn "Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it's always worth it."

TAGLINE: Sweet Rewards Ahead!

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 7:13-14, The Narrow and Wide Gates

MEMORY VERSE: "I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God." Revelation 21:3 (NIRV)

SUMMARY: The Caramel Highway runs right down the middle of Silly Swonka's Sweet Shop. It's a tasty road, but oh so sticky! Jesus told his followers about two roads, one looks good but leads to some sticky situations; the other one isn't as popular, but will take us where we need to go.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for helping us find the road less traveled. The one that leads to You and heaven!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, 'Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.'" Revelation 21:3 (NIRV)

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.'" Revelation 21:3 (NIV)

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.'" Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Revelation 21:3 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Put the verse on the big screen and read it to the kids. Say, "This verse says at the end that God will be our God. God is someone who we love and obey. We obey Him because He knows what is best for us. Sometimes it's hard to obey because we think we'd rather go our own way but when we do we end up in a lot of trouble. Since God knows what's best for us, when we disobey, we are actually doing what is bad for us. Let's read our memory verse together and think about what it means for God to be our God and for us to obey Him." Read the verse together as a group. "Let's practice what it's like to obey right now. I'll be Simon... and Simon says Jump up and down! Simon says bark like a dog! Simon says spin in a circle. These might have felt like silly things to obey, but sometimes when God asks us to do something we think seems silly, afterward, we realize that it was all part of God's plan and we are thankful that we obeyed! When we allow God to be God, and we obey Him, we find ourselves exactly where we are supposed to be!"

SMALL GROUP:

Read the verse to the kids. Ask, "How can we start living like this is true now, before we even go to heaven? God has sent us His Holy Spirit and He is already working in us. One day we will be able to see God and be right next to Him. For now, we have His Spirit with us. We don't have to wait until we are in heaven to start letting God change us on the inside out!"

Ask kids to come up with a list of their favorite candy. Write each one down. Then write a list of the fruits of the spirit next to them. For example, chocolate bar next to love, Skittles next to joy, etc. Tell the kids, "Just like we don't want to wait to eat candy, we don't have to wait to have these fruits of the spirit! God gives them to us as we grow closer to Him in our relationship. You don't have to wait for these sweet rewards ...you don't have to wait until heaven to receive them. He wants to give them to you now through His Holy Spirit! Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control!"



SKIT PAGE 1

TITLE: Silly Swonka's Sweet Shop (Part 3)

ITEMS NEEDED:

Brightly colored top hat, cane, caramel-colored cloth (or bulletin paper) laid across the floor to look like a caramel road (Have the caramel highway facing horizontally from stage left to stage right.), giant candy decorations such as lollipop trees and Twizzler ropes, and one pair of easy slip off crocs or sandals for Kara.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Silly Swonka – Candy Shop Owner

Kara – girl

Sean – boy

Mom – woman

Dad – man

CHARACTERS:

Silly Swonka

Kara

Sean

Mom

Dad

Begin with Silly Swonka standing next to the caramel highway wearing his top hat and holding a cane. Kara and her mom, and Sean and his dad enter from stage left. (Careful not to walk on the caramel highway.)

SILLY SWONKA: Welcome! WELCOME! You are the lucky few who will get a tour of this wonderful place. This sensational Swonka's Sweet Shop Candy Factory. And who, may I ask, have you brought along with you Sean and Kara?

SEAN: This is my dad.

DAD: Nice to meet you Silly Swonka!

KARA: And this is my mom.



SKIT PAGE 2

MOM: I can't believe my daughter found one of your golden passes! I've been trying to find one for years.

SILLY SWONKA: It's wonderful to have you. Thank you for coming. Now as you can see, we are just in the very beginning of the candy factory. If you look next to you, down at your feet, you will see our amazing caramel highway. It is a pathway, road, highway, whatever you want to call it...that is completely made up of caramel. This delicious caramel will make its way all the way down to our caramel bars. It pours into candy molds and makes sweet treats!

SEAN: Yum! I love caramel.

KARA: Me too!

SILLY SWONKA: Even though this road looks sweet...don't go on it. Take this path over here on the other side. It might look inviting, but it's a sticky mess to go on. Trust me, if you want to enjoy your tour today, stay off of the caramel highway...as tasty as it might seem.

MOM: Caramel does stick to your teeth. I could see how that could be a problem.

DAD: I'm not allowed to eat caramel anymore, not after having my teeth replaced by my dentist.

(As everyone is talking, Kara sneaks over and steps onto the caramel highway. She bends down and pretends to take a taste of it. Then she can't move her feet...they are stuck in the caramel.)

SEAN: I'll stay off of that road. I'm more interested in chocolate anyway...Kara...Kara where did you go?

KARA: Over here. I'm stuck!

SILLY SWONKA: Oh dear. We already had a mishap and we are only 5 minutes into our tour. How inconvenient.

MOM: Kara! Why didn't you listen to what Silly Swonka said? We aren't supposed to walk on there.

SILLY SWONKA: You'd be surprised...a lot of people travel that way. Even when I warn them not to. I guess it just looks too inviting. I guess it seems like an obvious road and the path I take is not as noticeable. BUT! Whenever you go that way, it's always the wrong choice. Believe me. When you go the way I will show you, it will lead to some sweet rewards!



SKIT PAGE 3

MOM: What should we do?

SILLY SWONKA: Well, Kara is stuck. There is no doubt about it. Should we carry on without her?

MOM: I don't think so! We have to get her out.

SILLY SWONKA: I understand. But the only way to get out is by leaving something behind. I suppose there is always a consequence for our actions. There is always some sort of sacrifice that has to be paid when we sin. There is always something we lose when we make the wrong choice.

SEAN: That's true! Once I decided to hit my brother and I lost tv privileges for a whole day!

KARA: Once I ate too much ice cream and I had a stomach ache.

SILLY SWONKA: Exactly. So, Kara, you may try to get out of the caramel highway, but there will be some sort of consequence.

KARA: I understand.

(Kara twists and turns and her feet are stuck. She finally pulls her feet out of her shoes and hops out of the caramel highway.)

SILLY SWONKA: Great, you made it out.

KARA: And all I lost was my shoes! I don't mind, I don't like wearing shoes anyway.

SILLY SWONKA: Things aren't all that they seem. You might not mind missing shoes now, but you might find later that you wished you had them.

KARA: Silly Swonka! I'm fine without shoes!

DAD: What's next on this tour?

SILLY SWONKA: If you would just follow this way friends, we will get to the next amazing feature in our candy factory. Follow me please!

(Silly Swonka leads everyone off stage right.)



OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Scoop of vanilla ice cream on a cone upside down in a dish

Check out my dessert for today. Did you know that statistically speaking, more Americans like chocolate ice cream than vanilla? I chose vanilla today, but what if I chose chocolate just because everyone else was choosing it? Do you think this would be a good choice?

Sometimes we want to do what everyone else is doing because it seems cool or we feel accepted when we do it. If I chose chocolate, even though I liked vanilla better, I'd be choosing it for the wrong reasons. I would be doing it to fit in, to look like everybody else, or because chocolate is easier to find in the store because there is more of it.

Jesus told us to take the road less traveled. What He meant by this is that when we follow Him, we will find that it isn't the popular thing that everybody is doing. It might even be difficult to know where the road is at first, and we will need to spend time in the Bible and praying to God to find that out. It might seem tempting to just do what other people are doing. In fact, more people don't follow Jesus in this world than do follow Him. We might be tempted to do what everyone else does to fit in. But this would be a mistake. I chose vanilla because I like it better. If you like chocolate better, you should choose that! And I chose to follow Jesus because He is the road that leads to eternal life. He is the way, the truth, and the life! It might not be the cool thing to do, but it sure is the best thing for you!



LARGE GROUP GAME

STICKY MARSHMALLOW MADNESS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Marshmallows

INSTRUCTIONS:

Have kids line up. Give them each a marshmallow and ask them to rip it halfway in half so there is a hole in their marshmallow but it hasn't been ripped into two pieces. Instruct them to stick the marshmallow to their nose and proceed to try to walk all the way across the room without the marshmallow falling off. Each time it falls they will have to stick it back on their nose before they can continue. When they get to the other side of the room tell them to take their marshmallow and rip it the rest of the way in half. Then put one piece on each cheek and try to walk across back to the other side of the room without it falling off. Finally, when they reach the other side, gather all of the marshmallows and throw them away. Give each kid a marshmallow (or another treat if there is an allergy/sugar limitation) and allow them to eat it as their reward for trying the stick marshmallow madness challenge!

VARIATION:

N/A

WHAT'S THE POINT:

Just like sticky caramel, marshmallows get us into sticky situations! When we take the road less traveled, it might look more difficult, but at least it doesn't get us into a sticky mess of sin!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

If we go the wrong way, we will end up in some sticky situations!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it's always worth it."

TAGLINE:

Sweet Rewards Ahead!

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 7:13-14, The Narrow and Wide Gates

INTRO:

Kara got herself into a sticky situation when she disobeyed Silly Swonka and got on the caramel highway. We all make mistakes sometimes, and when we do, we get ourselves into sticky situations. This is because sin always leads to problems. Have you ever gotten yourself into a sticky situation? I know I have! Today we are going to listen to what Jesus said about this, and how we can avoid this problem.

Before we dive into the text, tell me...what is your most favorite sticky candy? Raise your hand if you like caramel. Raise your hand if you like taffy. Raise your hand if you like gum. Raise your hand if you like marshmallows. Yum!

Let's read from Matthew chapter 7 and listen to what Jesus tells us about following Him!

READ MATTHEW 7:13-14

MAIN POINT:

Jesus doesn't take long to give us this warning. It's only 2 verses long. But it is full of wisdom that leads to sweet rewards! Jesus tells us to enter through the narrow gate. The one that not many people go through. The one that isn't very popular and not everyone else is doing it. He warns that it is very easy to go the wrong way. The gate is wide and broad, which leads to destruction. This means that there are so many ways we can go that are NOT good for us. There are so many ways we can live our lives that are not healthy, not what God has designed for us, and not what God's purpose is for us. So, we should take this as a warning. To be careful where we go. Jesus tells us about two roads, one looks good and leads to some sticky situations, and the other isn't as popular, but will take us where we need to go!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

Don't just follow the crowd. Don't just do whatever everyone else is doing. It's easy to just follow others but then we won't know if it is the way God is calling us to go. Jesus says small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life. And very few find it. You might be asking yourself...then HOW WILL I FIND IT IF IT'S HARD TO FIND?! It might not be the easiest road to travel but it's not hard to find. God gives us instructions how to find it. The only reason people don't go that way is because they decide they want to do things their way or they'd rather follow others.

We can find the road less traveled by reading God's word and praying and asking God to lead us. Sometimes God will ask you to go places that might sound strange or silly to you. But when we obey, we receive SWEET REWARDS! Because when we obey God, we are following His good and perfect will for us!

DRIVE IT HOME:

So next time you are tempted to go the wrong way, stop and pray. Ask God what you should do. Listen to his instructions through His word (the Bible) and the Holy Spirit speaking to your heart. IF WE GO THE WRONG WAY WE WILL END UP IN STICKY SITUATIONS. We will be stuck in our sin and the consequences of our sins. If we go the right way, the road won't be sticky with sin, but it will have its challenges. There will be difficult things we face, there will be challenges...but we can face them because we aren't walking it alone, we are walking it with God. As we have a close relationship with Him, we can lean on Him and ask Him for help when we find road-blocks, potholes, or what sometimes looks like a dead end. FOLLOWING JESUS ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT! Because this road less traveled leads to a life with Jesus.

Let's pray!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for helping us find the road less traveled. The one that leads to You and heaven!

In Jesus' name, Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is your favorite? Chocolate or Vanilla?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 7:13-14

Read the verse to the kids. Ask, "How can we start living like this is true now, before we even go to heaven? God has sent us His Holy Spirit and He is already working in us. One day we will be able to see God and be right next to Him. For now, we have His Spirit with us. We don't have to wait until we are in heaven to start letting God change us on the inside out!"

Ask kids to come up with a list of their favorite candy. Write each one down. Then write a list of the fruits of the spirit next to them. For example, chocolate bar next to love, Skittles next to joy, etc. Tell the kids, "Just like we don't want to wait to eat candy, we don't have to wait to have these fruits of the spirit! God gives them to us as we grow closer to Him in our relationship. You don't have to wait for these sweet rewards ...you don't have to wait until heaven to receive them. He wants to give them to you now through His Holy Spirit! Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control!"

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

(Ahead of time, prepare to listen to a song with your phone, iPad, or other electronic device.)

Listen to the song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rezg4jYFoj0&ab_channel=BobBaxter

on YouTube called Fruit of the Spirit Song by Bob Baxter. Tell the kids, "These fruits are gifts God gives us as we grow in our relationship with Him. They aren't things to strive for through our own strength, they only come from a close relationship with Jesus!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:13-14

Is the road less traveled wide or narrow?

Why does sin cause a sticky mess?

What do we do in order to have a close relationship with Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for providing a way for us to find the narrow road. Help us to remember to lean on you and ask you for help and not try to find the way on our own!

In Jesus' name, Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3RD-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is your favorite? Chocolate or Vanilla?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 7:13-14

Read the verse to the kids. Ask, "How can we start living like this is true now, before we even go to heaven? God has sent us His Holy Spirit and He is already working in us. One day we will be able to see God and be right next to Him. For now, we have His Spirit with us. We don't have to wait until we are in heaven to start letting God change us on the inside out!"

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:13-14

Is the road less traveled wide or narrow?

Why do you think it's more popular to take the wide road? (Hint: Sin leads us the wrong way.)

How do we get to the narrow gate? What do we do in order to have a close relationship with Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for providing a way for us to find the narrow road. Help us to remember to lean on you and ask you for help and not try to find the way on our own!

In Jesus' name, Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Following the crowd leads you to _____.
 - a. the narrow road that leads to Jesus
 - b. the wide road that leads to sin *
 - c. none of the above
 - d. all of the above

2. Reading God's word, praying to Him, and having a closer relationship leads you to _____.
 - a. the narrow gate that leads to the road less traveled *
 - b. the wide gate that leads you to the popular thing to do
 - c. the dead end
 - d. the mountain

3. Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it's _____.
 - a. silly
 - b. sad
 - c. popular
 - d. worth it *

4. Sin leads to consequences and ultimately without Jesus as our savior, sin leads to _____.
 - a. chocolate
 - b. vanilla
 - c. strawberry
 - d. death *

5. When we obey God and go where He asks us to go, we will have _____.
 - a. negative consequences
 - b. sweet rewards called the fruits of the spirit *
 - c. candy canes
 - d. watermelon

MAKE IT STICK

CANDY FACTORY LESSON 3

4 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON:

Use these four common times in a preschooler's day to reinforce this week's lesson:



IN THE CAR:

On the drive home, ask your child what he learned about this week: Which road does Jesus tell us to take? The road that looks good but leads to sticky situations like sin? Or the road that isn't popular, but will take us where we need to go? Having a close relationship with Jesus, reading God's word, and praying to God is the gate that leads to the road less traveled...the road that leads to sweet rewards like love, joy, peace, and more! Matthew 7:13-14, The Narrow and Wide Gates



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
Ask your kid if it's difficult to do things differently from what everyone else is doing.
Ask your kid what is one way they can find the narrow gate Jesus talked about.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:
What is one sticky situation you got into in the past?
What is one fruit of the spirit that comes from a close relationship with Jesus?
What should we do when we are following Jesus and we are facing a challenge?
(Hint: Don't do it on your own.)



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:
"I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, 'Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.'" Revelation 21:3 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:
Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it's always worth it. The road less traveled is the road that isn't popular but it is the one God is leading us to. Encourage your kids to read their Bibles by finding them a good kids devotional or bible study that will help show them how helpful going to God's word is. Encourage your kids to pray by praying with them and reminding them to go to God whenever they need Him. This will help establish the close relationship they will need to follow Jesus!



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

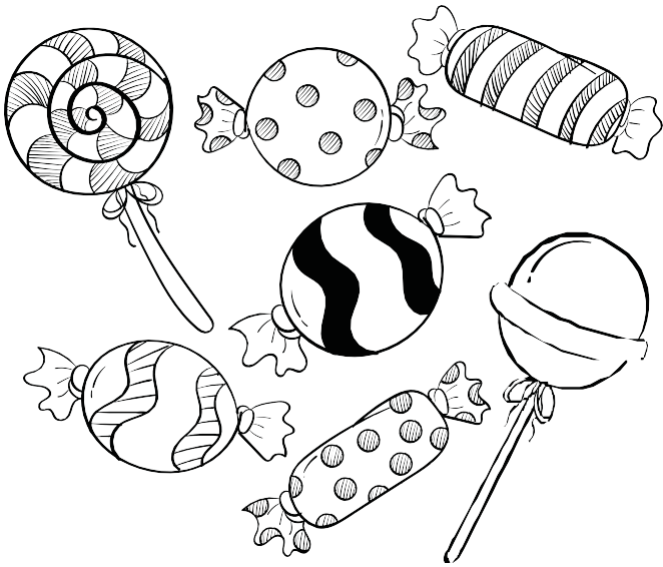
ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:

Double-sided tape, paper plates, glitter, paper, and markers.

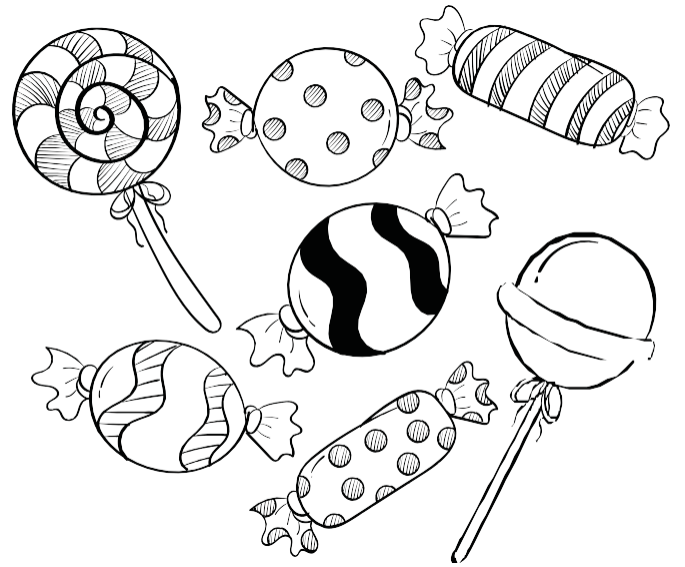
Ask kids to draw two lines on their page representing the two roads they can take. Instruct them to put double-sided tape along one road and leave the other road plain. Next, ask them to sprinkle glitter on their page and shake off any excess onto a plate for another friend to use.

Ask the kids, "Which road looks more appealing? Which road do you think would be more popular? The road with the glitter looks flashy and fun, but...when you walk on it, you will be stuck in sin! Just like the glitter stuck to the tape. The other road might look plain and narrow, but it leads to life!"

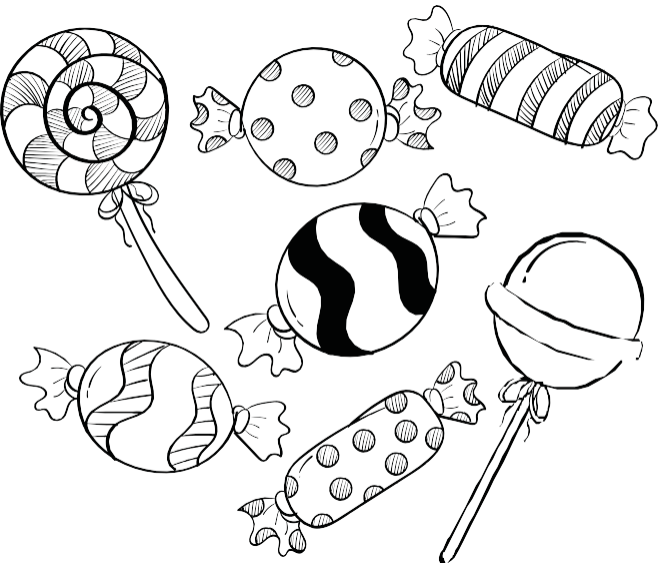
Allow kids to draw road signs, people, decorations, and more to embellish their drawings.



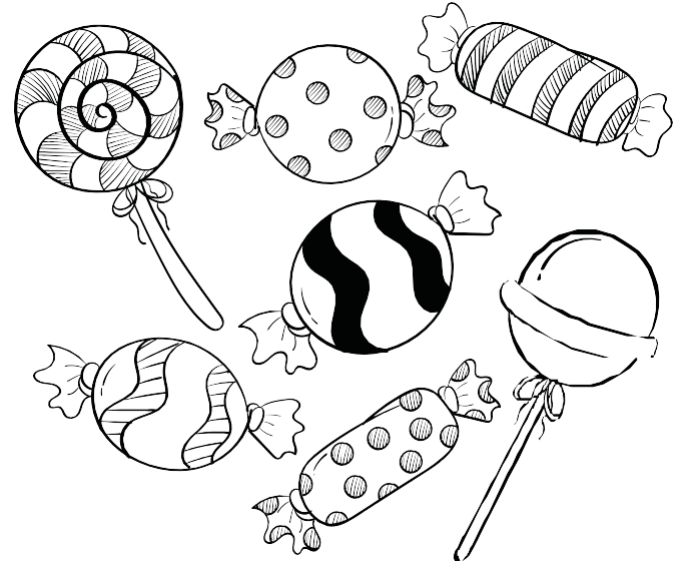
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